

We claim:

1. A method of modulating IL-1 β levels by administering a therapeutic effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor to a patient in need thereof.
2. A method of decreasing the amount of synovial fluid in a patient in need
5 thereof by administering an effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.
3. A method of modulating in a patient having osteoarthritis the amount of cartilage degeneration by administering an effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.
4. The method of claim 3 wherein the severity of said disease is reduced.
- 10 5. The method of claim 3 wherein the lesion size is reduced.
6. The method of claim 3 wherein the matrix disorganization of the disease is modified.
7. A method of modulating osteophyte formation and development in a patient in need thereof by administering a therapeutic effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide
15 synthase inhibitor.
8. A method of modulating cartilage lesions in a patient in need thereof by administering a therapeutic effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.
9. The method of claim 8 wherein said lesions are on condyles.
10. The method of claim 8 wherein said lesions are on plateaus.
- 20 11. A method of treating osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof by administering an effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.
12. A method of preventing osteoarthritis in a patient in need thereof by administering an effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor.
13. A method of modulating metalloproteases by administering a therapeutic
25 effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor to a patient in need thereof.
14. A method of treating acute joint injury by administering a therapeutic effective amount of an inducible nitric oxide synthase inhibitor to a patient in need thereof.